

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-4, 8-10, 13-17 and 21 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, and 18-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 7, 8, 13-17 have been amended. Claim 21 is new. In view of those amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the application be forwarded along to issuance.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over EPO Patent Application No. 0,671,194 to Ueda in view of US Patent 5,629,775 to Platteter.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a media-handling system comprising a printer, a first accessory device, and a second accessory device where:

1. the printer has an output that is variable among a plurality of printer output speeds, the printer being operable to send a first list to the first accessory device, the first list identifying printer output speeds;
2. the first accessory device having a first input coupled to receive media from the output of the printer, the first input of the first accessory device being variable among a plurality of first input speeds, the first accessory device being configured to receive the first list and to send a second list to the second accessory device, the second list identifying speeds from the first list that are supported by the first accessory device;
3. the second accessory device having a second input coupled to receive media from an output of the first accessory device, the second input of the second accessory device being variable among a plurality of second input speeds, wherein the second accessory device is configured to receive the second list and to send a third list to the printer, the third list identifying speeds from the second list that are supported by the second accessory device;

4. the printer is further operable to set its output speed and instructing the first and second accessory devices to set their speeds according to a speed selected from the third list.

To summarize, Claim 1 recites a system that includes a printer, a first accessory device and a second accessory device in which communications speeds are passed from the printer to the first accessory device, from the first accessory device to the second accessory device, and then from the second accessory device back to the printer. The communication from the first accessory device to the second accessory device is derived from the communication from the printer to the first accessory device and the communication from the second communication device to the printer is derived from the communication from the first accessory device to the second accessory device. The printer sets its speed and instructs each of the accessory devices to set their speeds according to the communication from the second accessory device to the printer.

Neither Ueda nor Platteter (individually or combined, teaches or suggests a system of elements capable of such interaction. For at least this reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references as are Claims 2-4 due to their dependence from Claim 1.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite a media-handling system comprising printer, a first accessory device, and a second accessory device, where:

1. the first accessory device having a first output coupled to send media to the second accessory device, the first output being variable among a first number of first output speeds
2. the second accessory device having a second input coupled to receive media from the first output of the first accessory device and a second output coupled to send media to the printer, the second output being variable among a second number of second output speeds;
3. the first accessory device being configured to request and receive first speed identifiers for each of the first output speeds from the printer and to send a

- first list identifying the first output speeds and their corresponding first speed identifiers to the second accessory device;
4. the second accessory device being configured to inform the printer of the first speed identifiers for those of the first output speeds supported by the second accessory device and to request and receive second speed identifiers for those of the second output speeds not identified by the first list and to send a second list identifying the first and second output speed identifiers and corresponding output speeds to the printer;
 5. the printer having a printer input coupled to receive media from the second output of the second accessory device, the printer configured to assign the first and second speed identifiers to the first and second accessory devices and to set a printer speed equal to a supported one of the of the output speeds identified by the second list and to instruct the first and second accessory devices to set output speeds equal to the supported one of the output speeds.

To summarize, Claim 7 recites a system that includes a printer, a first accessory device and a second accessory device in which communications identifying speeds are passed from the first accessory device to the second accessory device and from the second accessory device to the printer. The communication from the second accessory device to the printer is derived from the communication from the first accessory device to the second accessory device. The printer sets its speed and instructs each of the accessory devices to set their speeds according to the communication from the second accessory device to the printer.

Neither Ueda nor Platteter (individually or combined, teaches or suggests a system of elements capable of such interaction. For at least this reasons, Claim 7 is patentable over the cited references as are Claims 8-10 due to their dependence from Claim 1.

Claim 13, as amended, recites a method implementation of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable so are Claim 13 and Claims 14-17 which depend from Claim 13.

Claim 21 is new and recites a method implementation of Claim 7. For at least the same reasons Claim 7 is patentable so is Claim 21.

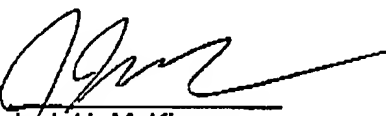
§103 Rejections

Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda in view of Platteter in further view of USPN 6,241,404 issued to Fietze. Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 18, and 20 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 13-17 and 21 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
Ricardo Osuna Leyva

By 
Jack H. McKinney
Reg. No. 45,685

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